

Amendments to the specification:

Please replace the third paragraph on Page 2 with the following amended paragraph:

Shoppers' excessive labor starts with wresting a heavy steel cart from a nest. (Parking-lot cart jockeys ram ever-larger carts into ever-larger nests in ever-larger stores: grocery, hardware, drug, and department.) She or he then propels the cart on too-small wheels, sometimes fighting a jammed caster all through store and parking lot. The shopper must stoop to lower each choice from display shelf to a cart basket bottom below her knees. Steering and pushing grow harder as the basket grows heavier. She must stoop again to hoist each item to a checkout counter usually several inches above normal table height. She heaves and stoops again to lower everything back from checkout height to basket bottom. Wal-Mart, the nation's leading retailer and grocer, ~~has taken this step to a new low.~~ requires shoppers to perform additional work. Their cashiers drop purchases from high checkout counter to knee-level bag carousel, demanding an extra stoop and lift: over the cart's wall, before shopper can stoop again to return it to basket floor.

Please replace the second paragraph on Page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Try to buy a cart more convenient and useful than store carts. There are plenty of ~~flimsy~~, folding wire-basket types on the market today. A typical offering is the Polsteins Super Shopping Cart on the CatalogCity.com website in March, 2004. Four small wheels carry consumer purchases near the floor. Try garden carts, utility carts, small folding hand trucks, and luggage carts. All are designed to carry small loads near the floor, usually on ~~awkward~~ small wheels.

Please replace the first paragraph on Page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Detachable baskets appear in U.S. Patent 4,813,701 to Balland (1989), with the usual deep single basket split into two or more shallow ones. But his complex lever systems and multiple sets of different-sized wheels may make his designs ~~too~~ costly to fabricate and ~~too~~ complex to use. Similar problems ~~will prevent consumer adoption of~~ appear in the cart in U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0149176 A1 by Miller (2002).

Please replace the second paragraph on Page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

A cart folding into the shopper's car trunk is offered in U.S. Patent 6,045,150 to Al-Toukhi (2000). But his wheels are ~~even smaller and bulkier~~

smaller than usual on store carts, and his shallow basket holds less merchandise. Similar ~~problems~~ small sizes appear in U.S. Patent 3,118,553 to Rosenzweig (1964), ~~with additional difficulties in folding his cart frame.~~

Please replace the third paragraph on Page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

A crank-and-pulleys system elevates the shopping basket to car-trunk level in U.S. Patent 6,024,527 to Soriano (2000). ~~"Effortless", he says, then~~ He suggests the cranking be done by an electric motor. Car-trunk loading of heavy business machines is done by overhead rail in U.S. Patent 4,251,178 to Bourgraf et al (1981), but a 50-pound basket of groceries ~~would~~ might have ~~insufficient~~ limited clearance beneath his rail.

Please replace the fourth paragraph on Page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

U.K. Patent GB 2,364,026A to Kowssari (2002) spares the consumer the checkout-counter lifting work., ~~but at an unacceptable cost.~~ The cart's capacity is ~~reduced~~ smaller than average, and the store is required to rebuild its checkout counters. Another attempt at reducing checkout-counter labor appears in German Patent DE3611738 to Flier (1987). A vibrating slide returns merchandise to the side-wall-dropped cart., ~~a costly solution.~~ The cart's usual knee-level merchandise floor remains unimproved here.

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Please replace the fifth paragraph on Page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

The smallest of cart capacities found in our search appears in Japanese Patent JP2002234443 to Kitagawa (2002).